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11 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting Of ARGO Steering Committee With Working Team At
[redacted] Alexandria, 8 September 1967, 1500 hours

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1. Present: [redacted] Chairman, Steering Committee, Working
Team, and other representatives of participating and interested govern-
ment agencies (from NASA [redacted] from OEP,
[redacted]; from CIA, Otto Guthe; from NPIC, [redacted])

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2. [redacted] opened meeting, saying they would hear report of
plan for Phase II from [redacted] then adjourned for 15 minutes while Steer-
ing Committee considered report, then go back into session.

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3. [redacted] began by saying plan was not too different from previous
one except some different areas chosen, sizes of areas changed and pro-
blems of participants linked more closely. Went on to make following
observations on project "involving differences in viewpoints of experts
and non-experts". Since experts get good results it is assumed others
will too (as experts ~~he~~ cited NPIC). But as non-experts they had gone
through the following phases:

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A. Great enthusiasm following their orientation at NPIC; a
feeling that material would answer many problems.

B. Disillusionment with mounting problems. Found material beau-
tiful but they were unable to be sure of answers; for example, they

25X1

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

couldn't tell a canal from a road from a pipeline.

C. Now in third phase when some enthusiasm comes back and although growth is slow and not to level of first phase the return is a straight line function "up to now". He went on to observe that the ~~senior~~ in the civilian agencies could be expected to go through similar phases.

4. The new Phase II plan presented by envisions three study areas and the following schedule (copy of his paper will be forwarded us by the TKH Channel.):

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A. Area I. 28,800 square miles. Agricultural land, mostly in use. Will not discover new agricultural resources but does contain some areas of desert, salt flats, erosion problems about which recommendations could be made. There is much ground truth available for area and members of working party have worked in area. They will produce general overlays to ascertain whether they can be done quickly and whether results worthwhile to the civilian agencies. They will then proceed to a small sample (e. 200 square miles) in vicinity of La Paz for intensive study, and then to an area of e. 50 square miles where KH-7^{is} available. They would ~~hope~~^{SEMIPAK} to finish Area I by 18 September. If not done by then they could be faced with a decision. They want a full 3 weeks on Area II and if Area I is not done by 18 September they may want to postpone ~~sessions~~^{SEMIPAK} for one week (from 18 October to 25 October).

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

B. Area II. 9,800 square miles, east of Andes, an area of discovery, little or no ground truth. Would hope to discover potential agricultural lands. This area much like a denied area. Here they would not do small-scale overlay but go immediately to a 3-week concentrated study of a small sample area of 200 square miles. They would ^{hope} ~~have~~ complete Area II by 6 October.

C. Area III. 92,000 square miles, with about half of water. Mostly for hydrographic studies. Don't plan to do much else with unless time permits.

5. [] queried possibility that after Phase III, they might wish to restudy Phase II. If such a possibility should appear high, suggests group do part of Phase III analysis now.

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6. Steering Committee went into session and then [] reported Steering Committee was well pleased with plan and endorsed, but left open one point, i.e., that of para. 5 above, ^{that} they might want to look at Phase III material before 6 October, and he suggested they get their photo orders in now on a contingency basis.

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7. [] (NASA) (who was quite "edgy") said NASA hoped to get data from the group as to what or what not NASA should fly. This was part of the charge to the group. There were budget considerations coming up and NASA faced decisions in relation the Earth Resources Program. Used agencies were going to be called upon in next couple of weeks or so for choices as to alternatives brought on because of budget cuts.

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TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

[] wondered, in this case, whether test site studies of Phase III should come first. A working member queried what they were to do for NASA. [] said that in Phase III it was hoped NASA could be advised on a number of questions; hopefully, working members would have gained enough experience by then to answer NASA's questions as to what needed.

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8. [] said he thought he could summarize now their feelings:

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A. Can't see more in the satellite material than in conventional photography.

B. Synoptic view of added value.

C. Coverage, particularly multiple coverage, easier to get.

(It might take him 6 years to get conventional coverage of an area wanted in South America, for example).

D. Must go beyond black-or-white but can recommend KH-4 and KH-7 types for civilian use.

9. [] suggested [] problems would be in different "peaking" and beyond black or white. [] said not completely so, not at all; that for first time the agencies had had an opportunity to study the KH material and now perhaps the old requirements they expressed regarding resolutions and other parameters were no longer valid after this exercise, and they were going to be queried again. [] interjected that the agencies' previous recommendations had not been made wholly from an "unclassified state of knowledge".

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10. [] suggested they keep NASA problems in mind. Next

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TOP SECRET

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meeting 6 October, 1400 hours, at which time plans for Phase III and progress of Phase II will be reviewed. Workers are to choose areas for Phase III as soon as possible. [] hopes to bring film orders to [] early week of 11 September).

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11. General Comment: Morale of working group was up. Best since I have attended the meetings. At last they have a plan of their own devising and feel they can get on with it.

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